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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

LOS ANGELES WATERKEEPER,

Plaintiff(s),

v.

ACCURATE STEEL TREATING, INC.,

Defendant(s).

Case No. 2:24-cv-07503-AB-SSC

**STANDING ORDER FOR CIVIL
CASES ASSIGNED TO JUDGE
BIROTE**

[REVISED MARCH 15, 2024]

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¹ This Standing Order was revised as of March 15, 2023. Revisions include:

- Complaints must include a numbered list of all causes of action on the face-page.
- Appearances in-person and via Zoom video are equally welcome.
- Stipulations for routine matters.
- Notice of Supplemental Authority, Marking Evidence, Pending Dispositive Motions; Motions for Default Judgment require complete proposed Orders.
- Summary Judgment / Rule 56 Motions must comply with Local Rule 56, which was substantially revised as of June 1, 2023; clarification about cross-motions.
- Motions for Attorneys' Fees must be fully vetted in the meet-and-confer process.
- Courtesy/chambers copies no longer required; please don't send them.
- Ex Parte and TRO Applications: 48 hours to oppose/respond, do not call for status.
- ERISA cases and bankruptcy appeals.
- Voluntary consent to Magistrate Judges.

**READ THIS ORDER CAREFULLY. IT CONTROLS THIS CASE AND HAS
SOME REQUIREMENTS BEYOND THOSE OF THE LOCAL RULES.**

This action has been assigned to Judge André Birotte Jr. Judge Birotte conducts all proceedings in Courtroom 7B of the First Street Courthouse, 350 West First Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012.

The responsibility for the progress of litigation in the federal courts falls upon the Court, the parties, and counsel. “[T]o secure the just, speedy, and inexpensive determination of every action and proceeding,” Fed. R. Civ. P. 1, all counsel, including pro se litigants², are hereby ordered to familiarize themselves with the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure (“Rules” or “Fed. R. Civ. P”), particularly Fed. R. Civ. P. 16 and 26, the Local Rules of the Central District of California (“Local Rules”), and this Court’s Order Re: Jury/Court Trial.

The parties should also familiarize themselves with the following:

- The Central District of California's website: <https://www.cacd.uscourts.gov>
- Judge Birotte's webpage: <http://www.cacd.uscourts.gov/honorable-andré-birotte-jr>

The purpose of this Standing Order and this Court's Order Re: Civil Jury/Court Trial are not to contradict the Federal Rules or the Local Rules, but instead to call your attention to certain of these Rules, or to establish additional requirements that this Court considers useful.³ For the benefit of counsel, litigants, the Court, and court staff, the Court has endeavored to keep its additional requirements to a minimum.

**UNLESS THE COURT ORDERS OTHERWISE,
THE FOLLOWING RULES APPLY.**

1. Service of the Complaint. The Plaintiff(s) shall promptly serve the Complaint in accordance with Fed. R. Civ. P. 4 and file the proofs of service

² Parties appearing pro se must comply with the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and the Local Rules. See Local Rules 1-3 and 83-2.2.3.

³ The Local Rules are available on the Court's website, and Judge Birotte's standing orders, including his Order Re: Jury/Court Trial, are available on his webpage.

1 pursuant to Fed R. Civ. P. 4(l). Any Defendant(s), including “DOE” or fictitiously-
2 named Defendant(s), not served within 90 days after the case is filed must be
3 dismissed pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 4(m).

4 **2. Removed Actions.** Any Answers filed in state court must be refiled in
5 this Court as a supplement to the Notice of Removal. Any pending motions must
6 be re-noticed in accordance with Local Rule 7. If a removed action contains a form
7 pleading, *i.e.*, a pleading in which boxes are checked, the party that filed the form
8 pleading must file in this Court within thirty (30) days of receipt of the Notice of
9 Removal a revised pleading that complies with Fed. R. Civ. P. 7, 7.1, 8, 9, 10 and
11.

12 **3. Complaints Must List All Causes of Action on Face-Page.** The face-
13 page of the Complaint must state the title of all of its causes of action in a
14 numbered list below the case number. If the initial Complaint lacks this list, it need
not be re-filed, but amended Complaints must include this list.

15 **4. Appearances In Person or Via Zoom.** Counsel are equally welcome to
16 appear in person or via Zoom video for any *hearings*, as they prefer. There is no
17 need to give the Court notice or to make a request for either kind of appearance;
18 please do not do so. If a video appearance is not possible, Zoom Telephonic
19 appearances are permitted. Judge Birotte’s Zoom link and phone-in information
20 are on his webpage.

21 **5. Lead Counsel Appearance Required.** The Court requires lead counsel
22 to appear for scheduling conferences and the Final Pretrial Conference.

23 **6. Junior Counsel Participation Encouraged.** To ensure that the next
24 generation of practitioners gets courtroom experience, the Court encourages lead
25 counsel to invite junior counsel to fully participate in Court proceedings, including
26 to argue motions and to examine witnesses at trial. The Court is more likely to hear
27 oral argument if any party files a notice at least 7 days before a scheduled hearing
28 stating that junior counsel will conduct the argument, or most of it.

1 **7. Electronic Filing Requirements.** Pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 5(d)(3),
2 Local Rule 5-4, and General Order 10-07, counsel must electronically file all
3 filings.

4 **8. Proposed Orders.** A party seeking any court order on any matter **must**
5 include with their filing a Proposed Order setting forth the relief or action sought
6 and a brief statement of the rationale for the decision with appropriate citations.
7 *See Local Rules 7-20, 52-4.1. A Proposed Order template is available on Judge*
8 *Birotte's webpage. Proposed Orders should substantially comply with the*
9 *template's format. Proposed Orders must be on pleading paper and must not*
10 *include attorney information on the caption page, a footer, a watermark, or*
11 *any text after the lines for the Judge's signature on the last page.*

12 **a. Emailing MS Word File of Proposed Orders to Chambers:** A
13 Microsoft Word file of all proposed orders must be emailed to chambers at
14 AB_chambers@cacd.uscourts.gov. *See Local Rule 5-4.4.2. A pdf file is not*
15 *acceptable. If the proposed order is based on a stipulation or an ex parte application,*
16 *counsel must email both the order and the stipulation or ex parte application.*
17 Otherwise, accompanying documents (such as motions) should *not* be emailed to
18 chambers.

19 **9. Stipulations for Routine Matters.** The Court expects parties to work
20 cooperatively and professionally to resolve routine issues, including scheduling
21 disputes and reasonable requests for continuances. The parties should work to
22 avoid motions on such matters. Stipulations to amend pleadings are also
23 encouraged. Stipulations must be supported by good cause, including a declaration
24 explaining the grounds for the request. Any stipulation must also include a
25 Proposed Order. Stipulations are not effective unless and until this Court so orders.

26 **10. Calendar Conflicts.** If any counsel discovers a calendar conflict with a
27 scheduled appearance, counsel must inform opposing counsel and the Courtroom
28 Deputy Clerk ("CRD") via Chambers email at AB_chambers@cacd.uscourts.gov

1 as soon as possible and not later than three days before the scheduled appearance.

2 Counsel must attempt to agree on a new date to accommodate the calendar conflict
3 and should propose a new date by Stipulation and Proposed Order.

4 **11. Discovery.** All discovery matters are referred to the United States
5 Magistrate Judge assigned to this case. The Magistrate Judge's initials follow the
6 District Court Judge's initials next to the case number. All documents relating to
7 discovery matters must include the words "DISCOVERY MATTER" in the caption
8 to ensure proper routing.

9 Counsel must follow the Magistrate Judge's procedures for scheduling matters
10 for hearing. These procedures are stated on each Magistrate Judge's webpage.

11 The Magistrate Judge's decision is final, subject to modification by the
12 District Court Judge only where the Magistrate Judge's order is clearly erroneous
13 or contrary to law. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1)(A). Any motion for review of a
14 Magistrate Judge's decision must comply with Local Rule 72-2.1.

15 **12. Motions - General Requirements**

16 **a. Time for Filing and Hearing Motions:** Motions must be filed in
17 accordance with Local Rules 6 and 7. Judge Birotte hears civil motions on Fridays
18 beginning at 10:00 a.m. The Friday after any Monday holiday is closed to hearings.
19 Closed motion dates are shown on Judge Birotte's webpage. The parties must
20 adhere to the briefing schedule set forth in Local Rules 7-9 and 7-10, and the
21 schedule herein for motions under Fed. R. Civ. P. 56, so that Chambers has
22 sufficient time to prepare. If a motion is noticed for a date that is not available, the
23 Court may strike or reset the motion. Professional courtesy dictates that the parties
24 should accommodate each other's schedules, including vacation and holiday
25 schedules, whenever possible.

26 **b. Local Rule 7-3 Pre-Filing Meet and Confer Requirement:**

27 Local Rule 7-3 requires counsel to engage in a pre-filing conference "to
28 discuss thoroughly . . . the substance of the contemplated motion and any potential

1 resolution.” The Court strictly enforces this rule for all parties, including pro se
2 litigants. This Court also requires parties to meet and confer about *any* potentially
3 disputed matter (except those identified in Local Rules 7-3 and 16-12) before
4 presenting it to the Court, including requests to continue, applications to file under
5 seal, and other filings seeking an order. The purpose of meeting and conferring is to
6 attempt to obviate the need for a contested filing or to narrow the issues the Court
7 must resolve. Parties **must** meet and confer in a good faith attempt to fulfil this
8 purpose. A Notice of Motion **must** include a statement of compliance with Local
9 Rule 7-3. The statement of compliance must be **prominent**, as the Court will not
10 search a filing for the statement. The Court may strike or outright deny a motion
11 that lacks a prominent statement of compliance with Local Rule 7-3, or if counsel
12 fail to meet and confer in good faith.

13 c. **Length and Format of Motion Papers:** Memoranda of points
14 and authorities in support of or in opposition to motions must not exceed 25 pages.
15 Replies must not exceed 15 pages. Only for good cause will the Court grant an
16 application to extend these page limits. Typeface must comply with Local Rule
17 11-3.1.1. Times New Roman font must be at least 14 point; Courier font must be
18 at least 12 point. Footnotes must be used sparingly and must be in the same font
19 and the same size as the body of the memorandum. Citations must be in the body
20 of a memorandum, not in the footnotes.

21 d. **Citations to Cases:** Citations to cases must be in Bluebook format
22 and must include pinpoint citations (citations to page numbers). Counsel may omit
23 parallel citations. For unreported cases, the Court prefers Westlaw citations.

24 e. **Citations to Other Sources:** Statutes should be cited in accordance
25 with the Bluebook. Statutory references should identify with specificity the sections
26 and subsections referenced (e.g., “Plaintiff alleges that Defendant infringed on his
27 trademark in violation of the Lanham Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1114(a).”) Avoid statutory
28 citations that do not specifically indicate the appropriate section and subsection

1 (e.g., “Plaintiff alleges that Defendant infringed on his trademark in violation of
2 the Lanham Act, 15 U.S.C. §§ 1051, *et. seq.*”). Citations to treatises, manuals, and
3 other materials should include the volume, section, and pages being referenced.

4 **f. Notice of Supplemental Authority:** Parties may bring
5 supplemental authority to the Court’s attention. Any such notice should *briefly*
6 explain the significance of the supplemental authority.

7 **g. Marking Evidence:** Parties must mark evidence they file in
8 connection with *any* motion or other proceeding so that the Court can readily
9 identify the portion the party wants the Court to consider. For example, use
10 brackets in the margins of transcripts to denote the cited portions. For other
11 examples, see section (ii) Supporting Evidence in Summary Judgment, below.

12 **h. Oral Argument:** Pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 78 and Local Rule
13 7-15, the Court may deem a matter appropriate for decision without oral argument
14 and vacate the hearing. If the Court does so, it will notify the parties in advance.

15 **i. Pending Motions:** The Court may continue or take a motion under
16 submission such that the motion is not resolved before the Scheduling Order
17 requires the parties to begin trial preparation. If a ruling on the motion would
18 meaningfully impact trial preparation, to preserve the parties’ and the Court’s
19 resources, the Court encourages the parties to meet and confer and file a Stipulation
20 and Proposed Order to continue the trial-related dates.

21 **13. Specific Motion Requirements**

22 **a. Motions Pursuant to Rule 12:** Motions to dismiss or to strike a
23 pleading, claim, or defense can often be avoided if the parties meet and confer in
24 good faith as required by Local Rule 7-3, especially for perceived defects that could
25 be corrected by amendment. *See Chang v. Chen*, 80 F.3d 1293, 1296 (9th Cir.
26 1996) (where a motion to dismiss is granted, a district court should provide leave to
27 amend unless it is clear that the complaint could not be saved by any amendment).
28 Moreover, a party may “amend its pleading once as a matter of course” within

1 twenty-one (21) days of serving it, or “if the pleading is one to which a responsive
2 pleading is required, 21 days after service of a responsive pleading or 21 days after
3 service of a motion under Rule 12(b), (e), or (f), whichever is earlier.” Fed. R. Civ.
4 P. 15(a)(1). Even if the time for amending a complaint as a matter of course has
5 run, or if a complaint has already been amended, “[t]he court should freely give
6 leave when justice so requires.” Fed. R. Civ. P. 15(a)(12). This policy favoring
7 amendment should be applied with “extreme liberality.” *Morongo Band of Mission*
8 *Indians v. Rose*. 893 F.2d 1074, 1079 (9th Cir. 1990).

9 These principles require the nonmoving party to evaluate the moving party’s
10 contentions as to the deficiencies in the pleading to determine if an amendment
11 would cure the asserted defect. The moving party in turn should agree to any
12 amendment that would cure the defect.

13 **b. Motions to Amend:** All motions to amend pleadings must comply
14 with Local Rule 15-1, and must:(1) state the effect of the proposed amendment; (2)
15 be serially numbered to differentiate the amendment from previous amendments;
16 (3) state the page and line number(s) and wording of any proposed change or
17 addition of material; and (4) include as an attachment a redlined version of the
18 proposed amended pleading indicating all additions and deletions of material.

19 **c. Motions for Default Judgment Under Rule 55(b):** Motions for
20 default judgment under Fed. R. Civ. P. 55(b) must be supported by evidence and
21 must be accompanied by a full proposed Order addressing the procedural
22 requirements of Local Rule 55-1 and the factors set forth in *Eitel v. McCool*, 782
23 F.2d 1470, 1471-72 (9th Cir. 1986). Motions omitting any of these will be denied.

24 **d. Summary Judgment / Rule 56 Motions: Summary Judgment/**
25 **Rule 56 Motions must comply with Local Rule 56, which was substantially**
26 **revised on June 1, 2023.**

27 No party may, without leave of Court, file more than one motion under Fed. R.
28 Civ. P. 56, regardless of whether such motion is denominated a motion for

1 summary judgment or for summary adjudication. If a party believes there is good
2 cause to file more than one summary judgment motion, the party must seek leave to
3 do so by a noticed motion.

4 Parties need not wait until the motion cutoff to bring motions for summary
5 judgment or partial summary judgment.

6 **This Court requires an extended briefing schedule for motions under Fed.**

7 **R. Civ. P. 56, as follows:**

- 8 • **Any Motion Under Fed. R. Civ. P. 56:** must be **filed at least 5 weeks**
9 **before the noticed hearing date.**
- 10 • **Opposition:** must be **filed 3 weeks before hearing date** (2 weeks after
11 the motion is filed).
- 12 • **Reply:** must be **filed 2 weeks before hearing date** (1 week after the
13 opposition is filed).

14 The above briefing schedule is the default minimum. The parties may stipulate
15 to an extended schedule. Any briefing schedule must provide at least two weeks
16 between the reply deadline and the hearing date.

17 Parties wishing to cross-move for summary judgment should not file two
18 separate motions (6 briefs plus fact statements). This is to avoid overburdening the
19 Court with two sets of probably overlapping but conflicting briefs, fact statements,
20 and evidence. Rather, the parties should consider whether the issues can be
21 adequately addressed in 3 briefs, and determine who should be the moving party.
22 If a 3-brief approach is not sufficient, the parties should instead file 4 briefs
23 consisting of (1) a motion (25-page memorandum), (2) an opposition and cross-
24 motion (30-40 page memorandum), (3) a reply and opposition (25-30 page
25 memorandum), and (4) a reply (15 page memorandum). Counsel must meet and
26 confer to determine which party will file the initial motion and which will file the
27 opposition/cross-motion. Parties should stipulate to an extended briefing schedule
28 and extended page limits (possible limits set forth above). The Court expects the

1 parties to cooperate and agree on an appropriate briefing schedule, but they may
2 seek Court intervention if necessary. The Court may sua sponte enter summary
3 judgment as provided in Fed. R. Civ. P. 56(f).

4 Because summary judgment motions are fact and evidence intensive, parties
5 should prepare papers in a user-friendly fashion that will aid the Court's review of
6 the material (e.g., PDFs of exhibits bookmarked, tables of contents, headings,
7 indices, etc.). The Court will deem facts admitted in accordance with Local Rule
8 56-4.

9 **i. Statement of Uncontroverted Facts, and Statement of**
10 **Genuine Disputes, and Response to Statement of**
11 **Genuine Issues**

12 **Local Rule 56 was substantially revised on June 1, 2023 to require as**
13 **follows:** A party moving under Fed. R. Civ. P. 56 must file with the motion a
14 Statement of Uncontroverted Facts, the opposing party must file a Statement of
15 Genuine Disputes, and the moving party must file a Response to Statement of
16 Genuine Disputes. The parties **MUST** file these documents, and the documents
17 **MUST** comply with the format set forth in Local Rule 56. The Court may disregard
18 non-compliant filings.

19 The opposing party may submit additional material facts that bear on the
20 issues raised by the movant. The additional facts, and the moving parties' response,
21 must follow the format set forth in Local Rule 56, and must continue in sequentially
22 numbered paragraphs.

23 The opposing party may dispute all or only a portion of a factual statement.
24 No party should purport to dispute immaterial portions of factual statements.

25 The Court may disregard purported disputes that are not clearly stated or that
26 otherwise violate the Local Rules or this Order.

27 The parties' memoranda should generally cite the Statements, and not the
28 underlying evidence.

1 Do not include legal argument in any of these Statements. For how to handle
2 evidentiary objections, see below.

3 **ii. Supporting Evidence**

4 A party must file only the specific evidence necessary to support or controvert
5 a proposed undisputed fact. Counsel **must** use brackets to mark the relevant
6 portions of transcripts. The Court will disregard unmarked transcripts. Counsel
7 must also mark the relevant portions of other documentary evidence (e.g., a lengthy
8 contract) when the relevant portion is not obvious. Use common sense when
9 deciding whether it's necessary to mark an exhibit. Entire deposition transcripts,
10 entire sets of interrogatory responses, and documents that do not specifically
11 support or controvert material in the separate statement must not be filed. The
12 Court will disregard such material.

13 Evidence must be filed either by stipulation or as exhibits to declarations
14 sufficient to authenticate the proffered evidence, and must not be attached to the
15 memorandum. The Court will accept counsel's authentication of deposition
16 transcripts, written discovery responses, and documents received in discovery if the
17 fact that the document was in the opponent's possession is of independent
18 significance.

19 **iii. Objections to Evidence**

20 If a party disputes a fact based on an evidentiary objection *that cannot be*
21 *overcome* the *ground* the objection should be stated in the separate Statement but
22 not *argued* in that document. The ground must be *argued* in a separate document.

23 Do not submit blanket or boilerplate objections to an opponent's evidence.
24 They will be disregarded. Likewise, avoid evidentiary objections that an opponent
25 can overcome at trial.

26 **d. Motions for Attorneys' Fees:** Before filing a motion for
27 attorneys' fees, counsel must meet and confer thoroughly pursuant to Local Rule
28 7-3 to attempt in good faith to agree on the reasonable amount of fees and expenses

1 to be awarded (if the Court decides to award fees). The party seeking fees must
2 support their request by disclosing their time and expense records during the meet
3 and confer process and should not withhold them until a motion is filed. The
4 opposing party should not make unreasonable objections. The parties must discuss
5 each and every entry to which there is an objection and attempt to resolve the
6 objection. The Court reminds the parties that a contested request for attorneys' fees
7 "should not result in a second major litigation." *Hensley v. Eckerhart*, 461 U.S.
8 424, 437 (1983). If the Court concludes that any fee motion is insufficiently vetted
9 by the parties, the Court may strike the motion and impose certain additional
10 requirements on both parties before the motion may be refiled, or the Court may
11 refer the matter to a special master at the parties' expense.

12 **14. Proposed Protective Orders and Filings Under Seal.** Proposed
13 protective orders pertaining to discovery must be submitted to the assigned
14 Magistrate Judge. Protective orders must not purport to allow any matters to be
15 filed under seal in connection with dispositive motions (including a class
16 certification motion) or trial without further Court order. The existence of a
17 protective order does not alone authorize the filing of pleadings or other documents
18 under seal, in whole or in part.

19 **15. Filings Under Seal.** Local Rule 79-5 governs applications to file under
20 seal. Parties must comply with all sections of Local Rule 79-5. The parties must
21 also meet and confer before filing an application to seal.

22 Parties must make every effort to limit the number and volume of under seal
23 filings. There is a strong presumption of access in civil cases. *Foltz v. State Farm*
24 *Mut. Auto. Ins. Co.*, 331 F.3d 1122, 1135 (9th Cir. 2003). For each document or
25 other type of information a party seeks to file under seal, the party must identify
26 and discuss the factual and/or legal justification that establishes "good cause" or
27 "compelling reasons" for the matter should be protected. *Kamakana v. City and*
28 *County of Honolulu*, 447 F.3d 1172, 1179-80 (9th Cir. 2006).

1 Documents that are not confidential or privileged in their entirety must not be
2 filed under seal in their entirety if the confidential portions can be redacted with a
3 reasonable amount of effort. The parties must file a complete version of such
4 documents under seal, and a redacted version for public viewing, redacting only the
5 portions that the Court has ordered may be filed under seal.

6 Sealing must be justified for *each individual item*; an application making
7 blanket claims of confidentiality will be denied. Counsel is strongly encouraged to
8 consider carefully whether sealing or redaction is required for a given piece of
9 evidence or argument. The parties must minimize the materials they seek to file
10 under seal. An application to seal that includes clearly meritless requests to seal
11 or redact documents may be denied in its entirety. The Court will not expend its
12 limited resources on overbroad requests to seal.

13 **16. Chambers/Courtesy Copies NOT REQUIRED.** Please **DO NOT**
14 provide chambers/courtesy copies. The Court no longer uses them. They will be
15 discarded. In the rare instance in which the Court would like chambers copies for a
16 particular situation, the Court will issue an order requesting them. In the absence of
17 such an order DO NOT provide chambers copies of anything. *Lodged* items should
18 be placed in Judge Birotte's box outside of the Clerk's Office on the 4th Floor of
19 the First Street Courthouse.

20 **17. Ex Parte Applications.** Ex parte applications are solely for
21 extraordinary relief. *See Mission Power Engineering Co. v. Continental Casualty*
22 *Co.* 883 F. Supp. 488 (C.D. Cal. 1995). Sanctions may be imposed for misuse of
23 ex parte applications.

24 Applications that do not conform with Local Rules 7-19 and 7-19.1, **such as**
25 **by omitting a statement of opposing counsel's position,** will not be considered.
26 Service must be made in compliance with Local Rule 5-3, and the moving party
27 must also serve the nonmoving party by email, fax, or personal service. Any
28 opposition must be filed within 48 hours (2 court days) after service. The moving

1 party must notify the nonmoving party that opposing papers are due 48 hours (2
2 court days) after service. If the nonmoving party does not intend to oppose the
3 ex parte application, counsel must inform the CRD by telephone. The Court usually
4 resolves ex parte applications on the papers and does not set a hearing. If the Court
5 determines a hearing is necessary, the CRD will notify counsel of a hearing date
6 and time. Absent leave of Court, the Court will not consider reply papers in support
7 of an ex parte application. Do not call the CRD for status of an ex parte application.

8 **18. Injunctions and Temporary Restraining Orders.** Parties seeking
9 preliminary or emergency injunctive relief must comply with Fed. R. Civ. P. 65 and
10 Local Rule 65. Applications for a Temporary Restraining Order (“TRO”) are also
11 governed by Local Rule 7-19 and the paragraph above, which apply to ex parte
12 applications. Oppositions to Applications for a TRO must be filed within 48 hours
13 (2 court days) following service of the Application. The Court will not rule on any
14 Application for a TRO for at least 48 hours (2 court days) after the party subject to
15 the requested order has been served, unless notice is excused as per Fed. R. Civ. P.
16 65(b), or unless the interests of justice so requires. As with other ex parte
17 applications, replies are not permitted without leave of Court, and do not call the
18 CRD for status.

19 **19. ERISA Cases.** Claims to recover benefits under ERISA will be
20 resolved by a court trial (usually confined to briefing and possible oral argument)
21 on the administrative record. Absent an agreed upon statement of facts, the court
22 will not hear motions for summary judgment. However, the Court will hear motions
23 to determine the standard of review and the scope of the administrative record. *See*
24 *Kearney v. Standard Ins. Co.*, 175 F.3d 1084 (9th Cir. 1999).

25 **20. Bankruptcy Appeals.** Counsel must comply with the Notice
26 Regarding Appeal from Bankruptcy Court issued at the time the appeal is filed in
27 the District Court. The matter is considered submitted upon the filing of the
28 appellant’s reply brief. No oral argument is held unless the Court orders otherwise.

1 **21. Voluntary Consent to Magistrate Judges.** The parties may consent to
2 have a United States Magistrate Judge preside over the entire case, including trial.
3 *See 28 U.S.C. § 636(c), Fed. R. Civ. P. 73.* The parties may select any magistrate
4 judge available for this purpose, not just the magistrate judge assigned to this case.
5 (Please consult the court's website for the list of magistrate judges available for
6 consent cases.)

7 **22. Communications with Chambers.** Counsel *must not* attempt to
8 contact the Court or Chambers staff by email, telephone, or by any other ex parte
9 means. Counsel *may*, for appropriate matters only, contact the CRD via Chambers
10 email at AB_chambers@cacd.uscourts.gov or by telephone at (213)-894-2833.
11 Counsel must not contact the CRD regarding the status of any matter before the
12 the Court. Counsel must include on all papers their email address, telephone
13 number, and fax number to facilitate communication with the CRD.

14 **23. Order Setting Scheduling Conference.** Pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P.
15 16(b) and 26(f), the Court will issue an Order setting a Scheduling Conference. The
16 parties must strictly comply with the Order, Fed. R. Civ. P. 16 and 26, and Local
17 Rule 26. The Court suggests as a default that the parties propose a trial date about
18 18 months after the filing of the complaint, but a longer timeframe may be
19 appropriate for some cases.

20 **24. Settlement Conference / Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR).** As
21 stated in Local Rule 16-15, the parties in every case must participate in a Settlement
22 Conference or Alternative Dispute Resolution (“ADR”) procedure. **The Court will**
23 **not hold a final pretrial conference or convene any trial unless and until all**
24 **parties, including the principals of all corporate parties, have completed ADR.**

25 This Court participates in the Court-Directed ADR Program whereby the
26 Court refers the parties to a magistrate judge, the Court Mediation Panel, or to
27 private mediation. *See General Order 11-10, §5.1.* If a Notice to Parties of Court-
28 Directed ADR Program (ADR-08) has been filed in this case, counsel must furnish

1 and discuss it with their clients in preparation for the Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(f)
2 conference. In their Joint Rule 26(f) Report, counsel should indicate their preferred
3 ADR procedure. The Court will refer the case to a procedure at the initial
4 scheduling conference. More information about the Court's ADR Program, the
5 Mediation Panel, and mediator profiles is available on the Court's website.

6 **25. Standing Orders and Templates Available on the Court's Webpage.**

7 The Court's Standing Order, Order Setting Scheduling Conference, Schedule
8 of Pretrial and Trial Dates Worksheet, Order Re: Jury/Court Trial, and templates
9 for Proposed Orders and the Proposed Final Pretrial Conference Order and certain
10 trial filings are available on Judge Birotte's webpage. If the Court has provided a
11 template for any filing, the parties must follow it.

12 **26. Notice of this Order.** Counsel for plaintiff (or plaintiff, if appearing
13 pro se) must immediately serve this Order on all parties, including any new parties
14 to the action. If this case was removed to this Court from state court, the removing
15 defendant(s) must serve this Order on all other parties.

16 **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

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18 DATED: October 18, 2024



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20 HONORABLE ANDRÉ BIROTTE JR.
21 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT JUDGE
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